

VERMONT TOBACCO EVALUATION AND REVIEW BOARD
School and Community Programs Committee

Tuesday September 8, 2015
2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Agency of Human Services, 208 Hurricane Lane, Williston, VT

MINUTES

Participating members: Rebecca Ryan, Amy Brewer, Joslyn Cassady, Sarah Wylie, Eoana Sturges, Molly Mara, Bob Uerz, Amy Tucker, Cathy Hazlett, Ann Gilbert, Rhonda Williams

Public Comment: none

Agency Updates

Amy Tucker shared that FDA contract is renewed under a three-year contract option. 100% of stores get visited, 75% of stores will undergo undercover purchasing compliance checks through the state, and remaining 25% of stores are checked for advertising and labeling compliance. State statute limits using teens who are 17 years old, not sixteen year olds. And the state now requires teens to be temporary state employees which is taking longer for recruitment.

Sarah asked whether DLC might be able to pick up e-cigarette checks now that the state is no longer funding the compliance checks as they had in the past. Amy said she thinks this may be a possibility. This may be a good discussion to bring to the enforcement committee.

Rebecca Ryan shared that Waterbury Select Board is meeting tonight and on the agenda will be a group of folks who are proposing a town-wide ordinance to ban smoking in multi-unit housing.

Rhonda shared agency-wide commitment to tobacco-free environment. She had a very positive first-step meeting with Angus Cheney, AHS Director of Housing, and she shared research/data and debunked myths around tobacco use. They will meet again later this fall to consider the possibilities. Some public housing authorities have tobacco-free policies, but not all, so this continues to be an area to work on.

VDH marijuana health impact assessment will be published this fall.

ALA received a \$2,000 grant from IBM for NOT teen cessation program. Rebecca will work with AOE to determine whether there is an opportunity to work together to provide funds to schools currently conducting NOT program.

AOE grant RFP discussion

Bob shared information about the existing grant application. Over 60 supervisory unions and school districts are eligible to receive funds in a non-competitive process. Grant currently structured to allow activities within six strategy areas: curriculum, assessment, policy, youth asset development, tobacco-use cessation and community engagement. 20 out of the 60 receive the minimum funding eligibility of \$5,800 annually.

New proposal: competitive grant process includes multiple strategy requirements with funding that will be substantially increased. SUs will be ranked based upon their proposals for funding purposes. Focus on those SUs with the highest youth smoking rates, highest poverty, highest adult smoking in their communities, and infrastructure to implement a muscular tobacco control strategy. Focus will return capacity and implementation to schools and SUs. E-cigarettes will be addressed. Schools will have to address a comprehensive strategy approach.

Committee concerns/questions:

- Consolidation/merger talks may factor in questions and concerns SUs may have around capacity.
- Using current smoking rates as a marker for ranking since some SUs have reduced smoking but are seeing increased rates of smokeless tobacco.
- Adult smoking rates are not available by town or by SU, only by county. So this might be problematic.
- OVX and VKAT groups should not be a requirement.
- What would the curriculum expectation be in the upcoming round of grant funding because November 2014 site visit discussion around moving away from funding curriculum purchase and implementation.
- It would be helpful if there is guidance around funding amounts possibly by category.
- CDC has infrastructure guidance which AOE may want to use. AOE will be using Whole School, Whole Communities, Whole Child guidance.

RFP will come out in January, decisions made spring 2016, implementation July 1, 2016. Current grantees are listed on the AOE website.

Intervention opportunities between schools and community coalitions

AOE and VDH use different models for what tobacco control and education means. However this doesn't need to mean that this becomes a barrier at the local level in terms of working together. What makes synergy work well is the intersection of overlapping funding sources. How do we institutionalize these collaborations? There might be an opportunity to connect with the Vermont Community of Health Educators (VCHE) around this work. Can each agency (AOE and VDH) host an invitational session throughout the year? It is also valuable to communicate to both grantee communities what roles each brings to the table to maximize opportunities for collaborative work. Are there ways to use social networks within schools more strategically and to address a more global message around tobacco?

The best process may be to address collaboration on one or two specific activities as a start to the approach. North Carolina is an example of combining messaging (working together to establish a few bullet points) on a regular basis.

Other discussion items

Amy thanked Sarah for her service, expertise, professionalism throughout her time at VDH.